World bank financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra

2538. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra had submitted three proposals viz., computerization of food and drugs administration, strengthening of Drugs Control Laboratories of Aurangabad and Mumbai to her Ministry on 19th November, 2001 for financial assistance from World Bank during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the actino taken thereon;

(c) whether the State Government has also given a sustainability certificate for continuing these schemes beyond Tenth Plan and bearing the recurring expenditure; and

(d) if so, by when the assistance will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total value of assistance to be provided to Aurangabad and Mumbai Laboratories under the World Bank Capacity Building Project has been assessed at Rs. 4.16 crore. The project has already been appraised and is in the process of approval.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The project is likely to become effective from October, 2003.

Prevalence of HIV and AIDS

2539. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Nations International Children's Fund has ranked India second among the countries having high prevalence of HIV and AIDS cases in the year 2001; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take for protection against this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Report of the Joint United National Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO December, 2002 has ranked India as having second highest numbers of HIV infections in the World. However, the national adult HIV prevelance rate is 0.8%, iower than some of the neighbouring countries in South East Asia Region, such as Thailand (1.8%), Cambodia (2.7%) and Myanmar (1.9%).

(b) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt, of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components:—

- Preventive programme for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.

- Preventive programmes for the general population though programmes on blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, prevention of parent to child transmission of HIV, information education and communication (IEC) and awareness building among adolescents and sensitization for the AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

- Provision of low cost care by providing community care and support services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.

- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships. Building technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical Resource Groups, Operationa Research and Programme managment.